(c) Over 18 million cubic metres of gas has been allocated to various gas-based units in Maharashtra. A further demand of 8.22 MMSCMD from the Sate is registered with the Gas Authority of India Limited.

New LPG Connections

3165. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to icrease the targets for new domestic LPG connections to 10 lakhs;

(b) what is the modus operandi for alloting the additional 5 lakh connections;

(c) what is the anticipated allotment to Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) what steps Government are taking to streamline the home delivery system?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) The target for new LPG connections has been increased to 10 lakhs in 1991-92.

(b) and (c) Allotment of new LPG connections is not being done state-wise or on town-wise basis, but is based on availability of LPG in the country and other economic consideration of viability of the distributors.

(d) The present home delivery system has been quite satisfactory.

Impact of Idle wells on oil production

3166. SHRI R. K. KARANJIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons behind the growing number of idle wells and its impact on the falling oil production, whether it is a fact that the major portion of 1558 idle wells falls in areas other than Bombay High;

(b) the present rate of depletion of the Bombay oil reservoir and how it compares with the profile of the Bombay High oilfield at the time when the projections for the next plan period were being formulated alongwith the total production from Bambay High now compared to the production three years back;

(c) whether it is a fact that the difference between GAIL (Gas Authority of India) and ONGC are responsible for the non-utilisation of Bombay High gas;

(d) what is the total quantum of natural gas wasted every year; and

(e) what is the approximate cost of the wastage?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) According to ONGC & OIL as at present there are about 450 idle wells majority of which fall outside Bombay High.

(b) The current rate of depletion of the Bombay High is about 15 million tonnes per annum which is about one per cent of the Geological reserves of the field. It has ranged from about 18.00 million tonnes to 20.00 million tonnes during the last three years.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) About 11 MMSCMD of gas valued at approximately Rs. 550 crores per annum is currently being flared.

Petrol/Diesel Outlets in Uttar Pradesh

3167. DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of petrol/Diesel retail outlets opened in Uttar Pradesh during the years 1990 and 1991;

(b) the letters of intent issued in 1991, 1992, including those from his discretionary quota;

(c) whether Government propose to open new Petrol/diesel retail outlets in Uttar Pradesh in 1992; and

(d) if so, what are their locations?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a).

Year	1990	ROs	52
Do.	1991	Do.	47

(b) 28 LOIs during 1991 and 1 during 1992.

(c) and (d) Petrol/Diesel retail outlets are opened at different places in the country including those in U.P. on the basis of market survey, economic viability, product availability etc., under various marketing plans.

Offshore Oil and Gas Survey

3168. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Institute of Oceanology (NIO) has submitted a report to Government regarding their survey of oil and gas on offshores;

(b) whether it is a fact that NIO in its survey has found that the offshore from Kutch to Cambay has huge quantity of oil and gas; and

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken to explore oil and gas in this region?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c) National Institute of Oceanography had taken up two collaborative projects with ONGC for acquisition of data in Karwar and Bombay High areas in the Western offshore. There is no mention of oil and gas prospects in the Kutch, Saurashtra of Cambay region in these studies.

पश्चिमी बंगाल में तेल के भंडार

3169. **श्रीमती वीणा वर्मा :**
श्री कपिल वर्मा :
कुमारी सईदा खातून :

क्या **पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान 13 जनवरी, 1992 के एक समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित इस समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है जिसमें कहा गया है कि पश्चिमी बंगाल के तट पर और अपतट में लगभग 300 किलोमीटर क्षेत्र में तेल और गैस का भंडार छिपा पड़ा है जो कि सऊदी-अरब के तेल भंडार से भी अधिक है; यदि हां, तो सरकार की इस पर प्रतिक्रिया क्या है; और

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि निजी क्षेत्र द्वारा तेल की खोज के लिए देश भर में अब तक जिन 72 स्थानों को चिन्हित किया गया है उनमें यह शामिल नहीं है यदि हां, तो सरकार की इस पर प्रतिक्रिया क्या है ?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री (श्री बी. शंकरानन्द) : (क) और (ख) पश्चिम बंगाल में तेल और प्राकृतिक गैस के बड़े भंडार होने के बारे में किए गए दावे तथ्यों पर आधारित नहीं है। चौथे दौर की बोली में पश्चिम बंगाल में पांच ब्लाकों को अन्वेषण के लिए सौंपा गया है।

Energy saving Technology

3170. HSRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state: